

Docket No.: 02-0565
Bench Date: 05-07-03
Deadline: N/A

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Commission

FROM: John D. Albers, Administrative Law Judge

DATE: April 17, 2003

SUBJECT: Union Electric Company (AmerenUE)

Petition for Approval of Decommissioning Riders, Cost Estimate and Funding Level of Nuclear Decommissioning Trust Fund.

RECOMMENDATION: Enter the attached Order authorizing the filing of new decommissioning riders containing a decommissioning charge in the amount of 0.008¢ per kilowatt-hour.

On September 3, 2002, Union Electric Company ("UE") filed a verified petition pursuant to Sections 9-201, 9-201.5, and 16-114 of the Public Utilities Act requesting that the Commission approve: (1) the cost estimate for decommissioning UE's Callaway Plant; (2) two revised decommissioning Riders, one of which will be applicable to bundled customers, and one of which will be applicable to delivery service customers (the two Riders are in all other respects identical); and (3) certain assumptions set forth in testimony submitted with the petition that attempt to justify the annual funding level of UE's nuclear decommissioning trust fund. UE also requests that the Commission's order specify that the \$505,439 annual funding level of its decommissioning trust fund is included in UE's current cost of service for rate-making purposes.

Commission Staff was the only other participant in this proceeding. Although Staff agreed with many aspects of the filing, Staff disputed some of UE's conclusions. Through the submission of pre-filed testimony, however, Staff and UE have resolved their differences and settled all contested issues. The parties agree that the appropriate annual decommissioning funding level is \$282,205. This translates into a decommissioning factor of 0.008¢ per kilowatt-hour.

The attached Order, which is substantively identical to a draft order offered by UE and reviewed by Staff, reflects the agreements between Staff and UE. There is no deadline for Commission action in this matter.

JDA